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HINDU ETIQUETTE.

Husband and Wife Never Mention Each Other to Friends.

You can never tell what is manners and what isn't in India. When a woman wants to be very polite to a man she turns her back on him. It flatters any Hindu man to have a pretty woman plainly and ostentatiously turn her back on him.

Between husband and wife there is a queer system of etiquette. Whatever happens, a Hindu wife must never mention her husband by name. When she goes to call on her neighbor lightly chatting the afternoon through, comparing notes on the latest nose rings and the best way to stain the fingers with the fashionable henna, she must never let the conversation swing around so that she will have to mention her husband. If she should go so far as to forget herself and mention her lord and master to her shocked companion her hostess would soon yawn and explain that she had to go and put the bread in.

However, she can talk about her children all she wants to; there is nothing in the Hindu etiquette book against that. She can tell what a funny thing Jamiji said the other night at the supper table, how much he helps her around the house and delicately hint how much brighter he is than the other children in the neighborhood, but she must never under any circumstances mention his father.

Even stricter social rules govern the men. One Hindu man must never ask another Hindu man how his wife is getting along. That would brand the man as not having the slightest idea what drawing room usage was. All the men at the club would shun him. No one would dare to ask him to come over to the table and have a grape juice for fear right before everybody he might ask how his wife was.

When a Hindu goes to call it is not good manners to leave until the host gets up and tells him to go.—Homer Croy in Leslie's Weekly.

Wheels.

The earliest mention of wheels in the Bible is in Exodus xiv. 25, when the chariot wheels of the Egyptians were taken off by the Lord. But chariots are mentioned in Genesis xii. 43. But there were older nations than the Egyptians. The Chaldeans used chariots, and the Greeks—Homer's poems date from about 900 B. C.—had chariots at the siege of Troy, 1500 B. C. Probably in reality the wheel is about as early a piece of machinery as any now existing. Of course it has been developed, but the wheel of today is a lineal descendant of the section of a log of wood used by the agricultural peoples thousands of years ago.

Death Valley.

Death valley is a narrow valley between the Panamint and Funeral mountains in California. It is traversed by the Amargosa river, which is usually a dry channel, though probably it was formerly full of water. The level of the valley is covered with salt, supposed to have been brought by the torrents from the surrounding desert and left on the evaporation of the water. Death valley is considered to be the hottest and driest place in the United States. A temperature of 122 degrees has been observed.

Tragedy of a Diary.

The author of "Leaves From a Garden" tells a story which is at once a study in feminine revenge and a warning against the keeping of diaries. A girl had made at the instigation of her parents what seemed to be a happy match. But she died, and her diary, found after her death, contained a record of such suffering that her mother's mind was unbalanced by the reading. The husband married again, and by way of a wedding present to the second bride the mother of the first sent—the diary!

Suspicious.

Ann Eliza, a dusky washerwoman in Mobile, was being courted by a swain who approached her as she was at her washtub. After a few preliminary greetings she turned to him with, "Is yo' all shore yo' loves muh?" "Co'se I's shore!" was the indignant response. There followed a moment of silence, during which the washerwoman attacked her wash with renewed vigor. Then, pausing an instant in her work, she added suspiciously, "You all ain't lost yo' job, has yo'?"

Age of a Whale.

The age of a whale is told by the size and number of laminae of organs in the mouth, formed of a horny substance known as whalebone. These laminae increase in size and number each year. According to scientists who compute the age in this manner, many whales have been captured which were more than 400 years old.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

MYSTERIES OF EXISTENCE.

Consider the Case of the Apple, the Potato and the Sponge.

There is life here on this earth that is immortal, that never dies, so biologists tell us. A book by Professor C. M. Child of the University of Chicago tells of observations and experiments of the immortal life of sponges, potatoes and apples.

Take the potato, for instance. You wish to grow a new crop of potatoes, and you do not plant a seed; you simply split the living potato, you divide its substance and place the different pieces of itself into different holes in the earth, and the living potato becomes its own ancestor. The potato you eat today at dinner may be a part of the very potato your great-grandfather ate 100 years ago.

And so with the apple. It is perpetuated by grafting a piece of the tree upon a seedling, and that grafted twig, a part of the very body of the parent tree, grows on into a large tree, and a limb of it, again, is grafted on to another seedling, and so on and on for limitless thousands of years, the original tree living always.

The sponge cell splits itself in two and grows two sponges instead of one, and those two redivide again and produce four sponges.

The biologists scraped a small sponge from a wooden pile of Narragansett Pier, cut it into small pieces, squeezed the sponge cells from each piece, strained them through fine cloth and put them all into a basin of water. Within an hour the minute cells had collected themselves together again and began immediately to build an entirely new sponge like the mother sponge, of which they were originally a part.

These and kindred facts, as they are accumulated, may throw light on the great mysteries of life and death. Just how it is impossible to see. But the great discoveries have followed the painstaking collecting and comparing of facts that in themselves seemed unrelated and often trivial.

Hugo's Practical Side.

It may not be generally known that Victor Hugo used to draft the advertisements of his own books, instead of leaving the task to his publishers. His correspondence with his Belgian publishers gives the following example of the great novelist's advertising style: "After the middle ages, the present time: Such is the subject of Victor Hugo's double study. What he did for Gothic art in 'Notre Dame de Paris' that he has done for the modern world in 'Les Miserables.' The two books figure in his scheme of work as two mirrors reflecting the whole human life." An encouraging example to those young authors who cannot make up their minds how much modesty is enjoyed by the best literary traditions.—London Globe.

Teakwood.

Teakwood is used in India for general purposes in house and ship building, for bridges, railway sleepers, furniture and shingles. It is also used much for carving, the Burmese carved teak being especially noted.

Teak has in the past been used to some extent for gun carriages, but it is not at present considered well adapted for this purpose, as it has been found that it splits too readily to be thoroughly valuable in artillery work.

Teak is strongly and characteristically scented, is of oily texture, and the surface feels greasy to the touch. Teak logs when first cut will not float. The wood darkens with age, and after a number of years becomes almost black.

Language Puzzles.

Not alone are the so called Maya inscriptions, found on the ruins in Yucatan, a puzzle to scientists, for those two great nations, the Etruscans and the Hittites, went out of the world leaving archaeologists in a maze. The Etruscans occupied a part of Italy corresponding roughly to what is now known as Tuscany. The Hittites at one time occupied a part of Palestine and united with the Canaanites to resist the invasion by the Israelites under Joshua. The Etruscan and Hittite inscriptions have thus far resisted the attempts of scholars to decipher them.

The Storage Battery.

The correct technical term for the fluid in a storage battery, which is often called acid, is electrolyte. This fluid is a mixture of four and a half parts by volume of distilled water to one part of pure concentrated sulphuric acid. Should it become necessary to replace it on account of loss by spilling or leakage the strength above indicated should be used, but evaporation loss should be made up with a more dilute acid, consisting of ten parts of water to one of pure concentrated sulphuric acid.

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